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APR 18 2007

Docket No.: 2694-0142P

Application No. 10/765,962
Amendment dated April 18, 2007
After Final Office Action of October 18, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for separating amalgam from dental sewage, said apparatus having a flow zone and a sedimentation zone arranged in a housing, said housing comprising:

an aperture for sewage supply;

an aperture for sewage discharge;

an inlet chamber;

a passage chamber containing a separator made of a plurality of layers of synthetic foil;

an outlet chamber; and

stands having a hollow interior;

the hollow interior of such stands contains at least one pressure chamber which is combined with pressure sensors measuring any pressure changes,

said housing being sealed in a liquid-proof manner except for said sewage supply aperture and said sewage discharge aperture.

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3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, characterised in that the inlet chamber, the passage chamber with the separator and the outlet chamber are arranged horizontally one after the other as seen in flow direction, and with the sewage supply and the sewage discharge arranged in the highest position of the inlet chamber and the outlet chamber respectively.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said structured plastic synthetic foil is a structured foil and a plain foil that are arranged alternately.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said structured plastic synthetic foil is a wound structured foil or a structured foil wound in combination with a plain foil.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said layers of structured plastic synthetic foil are tubular elements made of structured foil, or structured foil and plain foil, which are slit into each other.

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8. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the structured plastic synthetic foil provides continuous longitudinal structures as seen in the flow direction of the sewage.
9. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the structured plastic synthetic foil provides a plissé structure consisting of triangles, quadrangles, or trapezia.
10. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the structured plastic synthetic foil provides lamellar, honeycombed or riffle structures or scattered raised points or indentations.
11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the sedimentation surfaces of the structured foil are roughened.
12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a perforated plate is arranged between the inlet chamber and the passage chamber, the holes of which provide sinkings on the side that faces the flow.
13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the inlet chamber provides a flow guidance element that is arranged in the upper area of the inlet chamber.

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14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein in the uppermost position of the passage chamber, above the separator, a vent channel is arranged which has a connection to the sewage outlet in the outlet chamber.
15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the sewage outlet provides a flow regulator.
16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the pressure chamber comprises a gas-impermeable, elastic foil.
17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the pressure chamber contains air or another gas and is slightly pressurized.
18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a level meter is connected with the pressure chamber in a pressure-sensory manner.
19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the cross-sectional area of the separator is round, oval or square.
20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the cross-sectional area of the housing is round, oval or square.

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the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey the invention to one skilled in the art. It is therefore requested that this rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 22, 8, 10-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ernryd et al (WO 98/26324).

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernryd ('324).

Claims 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernryd ('324) in view of Lee et al. (US 5,700,378).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernryd ('324) in view of Kopp (US 1,902,171).

These rejections are all respectfully traversed.

First, applicants again gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 2, 3 and 16-18 to be allowable. These claims as well as all other claims should be allowable as will now be explained.

The Ernryd et al document discloses an apparatus for separation of solids from a liquid. The Examiner has noted the separator 10 having made of a plurality of layers of synthetic foil. This document, however, does not have a "wound structured foil" as is required in independent claim 22. The secondary reference to Lee and Kopp would also not teach this feature. The present invention provides an apparatus for separating amalgam from dental sewage which is not found in the utilized prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC 102(b)

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21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) An apparatus for separating amalgam from dental sewage said apparatus having a flow zone and a sedimentation zone arranged in a housing, said housing comprising:

an aperture for sewage supply;

an aperture for sewage discharge;

an inlet chamber;

a passage chamber containing a separator made of a plurality of layers of synthetic foil;

an outlet chamber; and

stands;

said separator being a form body which can be streamed through and includes several tight fitting layers of a wound structured plastic-synthetic foil, the form body being fixed in the passage chamber, whereby the apparatus consists of recyclable synthetic material,

said housing being sealed in a liquid-proof manner except for said sewage supply aperture and said sewage discharge aperture.